

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-03

SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /173 W

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R 101551Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2157

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: EC INITIATIVES ON THE BUILDING OF EUROPE

1. BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, HAS  
DESCRIBED FOR ECON/COM MIN THINKING WITHIN GOF WHICH  
LED TO GISCARD'S INITIATIVE ON ACCELERATING PROGRESS  
TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION. BRUNET BEGAN BY DECLARING THAT  
EUROPE WAS IN A SORRY STATE. THE REASONS WHY PROGRESS  
TOWARD UNION HAD GROUND TO A HALT WERE PRIMARILY  
INFLATION AND TO A LESSER DEGREE THE BRITISH PEOPLE'S  
LACK OF SUPPORT FOR EC MEMBERSHIP. UNFORTUNATELY,  
INFLATION WAS ALSO THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO REMEDIAL  
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ACTION, SINCE GOVERNMENTS WERE TRYING TO SOLVE THEIR

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THROUGH NATIONAL MEASURES. NONETHELESS, GISCARD BELIEVED SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO RESUME PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION OR THE COMMUNITY MIGHT WELL DISINTEGRATE. INFLATION MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION AT THE PRESENT TIME. CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOF HAD CONCLUDED THAT ANY INITIATIVES TOWARD EUROPEAN UNIFICATION WOULD HAVE TO BE PRIMARILY ON THE POLITICAL SIDE.

2. IN ORDER TO GET THIS PROCESS STARTED, BRUNET SAID, GISCARD WAS CONSIDERING CALLING A EUROPEAN SUMMIT DURING THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY. HOWEVER, BEFORE DECIDING, HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE A FAILURE LIKE THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT. HENCE HE HAD INVITED HIS FELLOW HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO MEET WITH HIM ON SEPTEMBER 14, IN ORDER TO GET THEIR VIEWS ON WHETHER OR NOT ENOUGH COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT A SUMMIT THIS YEAR TO PREVENT IT FROM BEING A FAILURE.

3. BRUNET THEN SKETCHED OUT SOME OF THE FRENCH IDEAS FOR RELAUNCHING EUROPE THAT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BY VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING. NONE OF THEM WAS PARTICULARLY NOVEL OR EARTH-SHAKING -- THIS WAS A SUBJECT THAT HAD BEEN STUDIED SO MUCH THAT IT WAS HARD TO FIND ANY NEW IDEAS. THE SORT OF THING THE FRENCH WERE THINKING OF PROPOSING AT A SUMMIT WAS MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN A COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK; GIVING SOME LIFE TO THE MAJORITY VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BY ATTEMPTING TO DEFINE MORE PRECISELY WHAT QUESTIONS WERE IMPORTANT AND THUS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAJORITY VOTING PROCEDURE; AND THE GRANTING OF MORE POWER TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (A QUESTION ON WHICH, BRUNET SAID, THE GOF HAD ALWAYS BEFORE BEEN COMPLETELY NEGATIVE BUT WHICH IT WAS NOW PREPARED TO CONSIDER).

4. ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE WAS IMPOSSIBLE, BRUNET SAID, THE FRENCH

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WERE CONSIDERING SUCH MINOR INITIATIVES AS TRYING TO  
MAKE PROGRESS ON SUCH THINGS AS A EUROPEAN TRANSPORT  
POLICY AND A EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY. ANOTHER  
IDEA WAS TO STRENGTHEN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN  
AREAS SUCH AS EDUCATION AND CIVIL AVIATION WHICH WERE  
NOT COVERED BY THE TREATY OF ROME. BRUNET STRESSED THAT  
THERE WAS NO FRENCH PLAN FOR RESUMING PROGRESS TOWARD  
EUROPEAN UNION. AT THIS STAGE, THERE WAS JUST A COL-  
LECTION OF RANDOM IDEAS, ALL OF WHICH WERE RATHER MODEST  
IN THEIR SCOPE.

5. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SEMI-PARALYSIS WHICH APPEARED TO  
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HAVE GRIPPED THE COMMUNITY, BRUNET REMARKED THAT AT ITS

NEXT MEETING THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD HAVE NO  
IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DISCUSS. INDEED, THE ONLY IMPORTANT  
ISSUE WHICH THE COMMUNITY SEEMED ABLE TO DEAL WITH IN  
THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO WAS THE JOINT COMMUNITY LOAN  
DESIGNED TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP MEMBERS DEAL WITH OIL-  
INDUCED BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS DEFICITS. BRUNET SAID HE  
THOUGHT THE PROSPECTS FOR THIS LOAN BEING APPROVED WERE  
RATHER GOOD, WITH THE PRINCIPAL UNDECIDED QUESTION THE  
THE DEFINITION OF THE UNIT OF ACCOUNT IN WHICH IT WOULD  
BE DENOMINATED.

IRWIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** POLICIES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** STATE  
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